Forging ‘Soft’ Accountability in Unlikely Settings: The Prospects of Mutual Accountability in South-South Cooperation

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Outlines

■ Purposes of Research
■ The Stunted Evolution of Mutual Accountability in the Development Context
■ Translating Mutual Accountability in South-South Cooperation: ‘Soft’ Accountability
■ Mainstreaming Accountability Mechanisms in SSC
■ Factors for Mutual Accountability in Partnerships
■ Concluding Remarks
Purposes of Research

- The ‘Orphan pillar’ (MA) in unlikely settings (SSC)
  - Intersection of mutual accountability (MA) and South-South Cooperation (SSC)
  - Slippery concept of MA; lack of the South’s experience in the West’s concept of MA

- How can the seeds of accountability ever grow in SSC’s unlikely environments?

- To investigate mutual construction via the interaction between the Western concept of accountability and the local realities of programme countries
The Stunted Evolution of Mutual Accountability in the Development Context

- SSC’s real, concrete solutions to common development challenges among developing countries
  - Sharing best practices, funding pilot projects, providing the capital to scale up successful projects, supplying regional public goods, and adapting appropriate technologies

- Limits of MA
  - The lack of clear understanding
  - Sensitive issue to development partners
  - No single overarching authority to monitor behaviour and compel corrections for stakeholders
Translating Mutual Accountability in SSC: ‘Soft’ Accountability

- Three components of accountability
  - Responsibility:
    - To delineate the respective responsibilities of actors
    - MOU, policy dialogues, trust-building processes, etc.
  - Answerability:
    - To provide reasoned justifications for actions
    - Database sharing, transparency, mutual assessments, M&E, etc.
  - Enforceability:
    - To ensure appropriate corrective/remedial action is taken when required
    - Inspection Panel, resettlement processes, etc.
Translating Mutual Accountability in SSC (cont.)

- Accountability as a development norm
  - Institutional transfers of accountability by seeing not only how many of the Western principles are locally demanded but also how the norm emerges and is accepted and institutionalized in local settings of programme countries
  - MA as a critical foundation for institutionalising development partnerships in a harmonized and aligned fashion among development partners

- MA as an implementation mechanism for behaviour changes of aid stakeholders

- Difficult to apply MA as the universal model for SSC
  - The experiences of MA are not only diverse and complex; MA is also based on a North-South and donor-recipient paradigm.
  - The following elements reconsidered: strengthening capacities for self-development, implementing principles of country ownership, mutual benefit, and adjusting the development experience of the SSC provider to actual conditions in partner countries
Mainstreaming Accountability Mechanisms in SSC

- Incremental process of accountability mechanisms

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<th>Early initial stages</th>
<th>Final stages/last resorts</th>
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<td>Responsibility</td>
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- MOU
- Policy dialogue
- Trust building
- Safeguards
- Due diligence programme
- Database sharing
- Mutual assessment
- Transparency
- DAD
- M&E
- Peer review
- Inspection Panel
- Compliance Review process
- Resettlement process

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Mainstreaming Accountability Mechanisms in SSC (cont.)

- Linking national MA with international MA

**National level**

- Demand-driven frame for national development policy, based on strong ownership of programme country
- Locally-driven frame to monitor the quality and results of development policy
- Annual analysis of progress at a national top-level meeting
- Full participation of parliament and CSOs
- Comprehensive and publicly accessible databases

Who is going to take an initiative for this mission?
Factors for Mutual Accountability in Partnerships

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) participation
  - To what extent shall development partner countries ensure the participation of CSOs in the process of MA?

- Triangular Cooperation
  - Traditional donors – South-South providers (pivotal countries) – Recipient countries: how and who will measure the level of MA in triangular cooperation partnership?

- Private Sector Engagement
  - How can we understand the MA function within the partnership with the private sector?
Concluding Remarks

- Launching a new global accountability initiative for SSC
- Establishing a platform for action for systematic links between national MA and international MA
- Soft accountability principles for SSC
  - Voluntary based + self-disciplinary
  - Demand-driven accountability mechanisms
  - Need for ‘international mutual accountability platform’ that coordinates and customizes different contexts of SSC partners
- Soft accountability contributes to inviting more developing countries in the form of Busan Global Partnership.
THANK YOU!!